THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of housing units allotted by the Chandigarh Housing Board to the eligible persons during the last two years are as under:-

Novermber 1989 to Oct.1990 : 49

Novermber 1990 to Oct. 1991 : 62

Food Processing Industries in Maharastra

2182. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the belt along Virar Vasai area in Maharastra is rich in production of fruits;

(b) if so, the whether the Government propose to set up processing industries to utilise the fruits from that area; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Mango, Banana and Cashew fruits are grown in the belt along virar-vasai area in Maharastra.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not have any proposal to set up food processing industries directly in any State. However, this Ministry has formulated several plan schemes under which assistance is provided to the State Govts., Cooperative Societies, Public sector undertakings etc., for development of industries. No proposal from the State Govt. of Maharashtra has been received for seeking assistance to set up fruit industries in Virar-Vasai area.

Expansion of HMT Unit in Aurangabad

2183. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand the existing HMT unit located at Aurangabad (Maharashtra);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (c). HMT does not have any immediate plan to take up major expansion at the Dairy Machinery Unit in Aurangabad. Technological upgradation of its existing products is, however, being pusued by the Unit.

Diseases caused by Orissa sands Compiex

2184. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Orissa Sands Complex at Gopalpur in Orissa is the cause of cancer and several other dreaded diseases among the people living in that region;

(b) whether the local people are mostly affected by these diseases due to the pollution by the Orissa Sands Complex;

(c) whether some experts have also expressed their opinions in this regard;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have

sent any team to investigate the matter; and

(f) if so, the details of the report submitted by the team, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Some newspaper reports alleged that there is an increase in cancer cases and reduction in vegetation in Gopalpur where the Orissa Sand Complex (OSCOM) is located. These reports are attributed to unnamed doctors and unnamed agricultural scientists and are not based on scientific facts. The OSCOM operations do not pollute the enviornment with radioactivity.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Alleged Irregularities in P.P.L.

2185. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government are aware of the gross irregularities in the functioning of Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) in Orissa;

(b) whether the Government have investigated into the matter;

(c) if so, the findings thereof ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the performance of PPL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c). A number of cases of irregularities have been noticed in Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL). Some of them are being enquired into by the CBI and some by the Vigilance Department of PPL. In two cases, CBI have not found evidence for proceeding with prosecution and the matter is further being examined. Action has also been taken against some officials found guilty of irregularities.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to check irregularities. These include:

i) appointment of a senior IPS Officer as Chief Vigilance Officer;

ii) drawing up of a schedule for preventive vigilance in the company in sensitive areas;

iii) review of policies and procedures to plug loopholes/lacunae in respect of tenders, contracts, purchases, etc; and

iv) strengthening of internal audit system.

Measures have also been taken to improve the physical performance of PPL which, inter-alia, include ensuring availability of raw materials; proper maintenance of plant and machinery; formation and implementation of proper monitoring system at all levels for fixing accountability via- avis targets; enforcement of discipline, etc. These measures have resulted in significant improvement in the performance during the past eight months of the current financial year and capacity utilisation has been about 90%.

[*Translation*]

Growth Rate of Orissa

2186. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state;